

REMARKS

Upon entry of the present amendment, claims 1, 5, 8-9, 11-12, 14-15, 17-18, 20 and 22-24, are pending in the present application, of which, claims 1 and 24 are each independent, and of which claims 8-9, 11-12, 14-15, 17-18, 20 and 22 are withdrawn from consideration in view of the restriction requirement of May 28, 2010. Claims 1, 5 and 22 have been amended by the present amendment. Claim 7 has been canceled without prejudice and without abandonment of dedication of the subject matter thereof. New claims 23-24 have been added.

The above-identified Office Action has been reviewed, the objections and rejections carefully considered, and the Examiner's comments carefully weighed. In view thereof, the present Amendment is submitted. It is contended that by the present amendment, all bases of objections and rejections set forth in the Office Action have been traversed and overcome. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the objections and rejections is respectfully requested.

Interview with the Examiner

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the helpful and courteous telephonic interview she conducted with applicant's representative on December 1, 2010, in conjunction with Office Action of October 29, 2010. Prior to conducting the interview, applicant's representative sent (via facsimile) a draft of proposed claim amendments to the Examiner, and requested him to review the same.

During the interview, the Examiner informed applicant's representative that he has reviewed the draft of proposed claim amendments. In relation to claim 1, the Examiner indicated that in his view, Enomoto in his Figs. 5 and 6 discloses a rod structure having one pair of

opposing faces of the rectangular shape forms a shape which bulges outwards, such that the central cross section of the rod portion is thicker than the ends thereof; that rod portion is shaped with a plurality of void portions; and that the void portions are formed on the bulging faces. Applicant argued that according to the claimed invention, the void portions are formed on the bulging faces; whereas, in the Enomoto reference, the void portions are appeared to be formed / oriented in non-bulging faces. The Examiner suggested using structural references to define void portions recited in claim 1. In this amendment, applicant has further amended claim 1 to expressly define void portion, as discussed with the Examiner.

The Examiner also suggested revising limitations of claim 5 to reflect the elected species II corresponding to Figs. 7-11 of the present application.

In relation to claim 14, the Examiner indicated that, pending further search and review, the new claim 14 appear to be patentably distinct from the Enomoto reference (JP 11218173 A). However, the Examiner suggested revising claim 14 by deleting the term, -- blind --, from the phrase "...two rows of blind holes..." in claim 14. The Examiner also suggested changing the term "missing portion" to -- notched portion --. In this amendment, applicant has revised claim 14, as discussed with the Examiner.

Amendments Presented

In the Specification: paragraph [0022] of the specification has been amended for providing express support to amended claim language.

In the Claims: Claims 1 has been amended by specifying that the cross-sectional shape of the central portion of the rod portion forms an approximately rectangular shape, that one pair of opposing faces of the rectangular shape are arranged to form a substantially symmetrical shape which bulges outwards in a non-parallel configuration defining bulging faces, such that the

central cross section of the rod portion is thicker than the ends thereof; and another pair of opposing faces of the rectangular shape are arranged substantially parallel to each other; that the rod portion has a plurality of void portions formed on one of the bulging faces; that the void portions define elongated holes which extend substantially parallel to said another pair of opposing faces of the rectangular shape; and that the void portions formed on one of the bulging faces are arranged such that the void portion are not visible from the other of the bulging faces.

Amended claim 1 includes all of the limitations of claim 7 (now canceled).

Claim 5 has been amended by specifying that the rod portion between the rubber bushes is shaped with the plurality of void portions, each having an elongated shape parallel to each other and also parallel to said another pair of opposing faces of the rectangular shape.

Claim 22 has been amended to depend from claim 1.

New claims 23-24 have been added, of which claim 24 is independent. Claim 23 depends from claim 1, and defines additional aspects thereof which are directed to axes of the pair of cylinders, and stoppers arranged in pair of rubber bushes covering the cylinders.

Applicant respectfully submits that the above amendments, including new claims, are fully supported by the original disclosure including the drawings. Applicant also respectfully submits that no new matter is introduced into the application by the above amendments, including new claim, since the entire subject matter thereof was expressly or inherently disclosed in the originally filed claims, specification and the drawings.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC §102

In the Office Action (page 2, item 2), the Examiner rejected claims 1, 5 and 7 under 35 USC §102(b) as anticipated by Enomoto et al. (JP 11218173 A) (hereinafter referred to as “Enomoto”).

Applicant's Response:

As stated above, applicant has amended independent claims 1 and 5, herein. Upon careful consideration and in light of the above amendments, applicant respectfully traverses such rejection and submits that the rejection is overcome because the Enomoto fails to disclose required features of amended claims 1 and 5 for several reasons including those discussed below.

For example, applicant notes that Enomoto discloses a vibration isolating suspension device having an arm member 201 connected to pair of cylinders 202, 202, each arranged on opposite ends of the arm member 201. The arm member 201 includes a pair of opposing bulging faces forming a shape, which appears to bulge outwardly; and a pair of another opposing non-bulging faces forming a shape, which does not bulge outwardly. The arm member 201 appears to include some openly formed void portions oriented in crisscross manner. The void portions of Enomoto appear to be concealed from both the bulging faces of the arm member 201, and not concealed from only one of the bulging faces. Also, the void portions of Enomoto appear to be visible from both the non-bulging faces of his arm member 201(Fig. 5-6).

Thus, Enomoto fails to disclose the claimed torque rod structure including the rod portion having a plurality of void portions formed on one of the bulging faces, the void portions defining elongated holes which extend substantially parallel to the another pair of opposing faces of the rectangular shape; and the void portions formed on one of the bulging faces being arranged such that the void portions are not visible from the other of the bulging faces, as required by amended claim 1.

Rather, Enomoto discloses the vibration isolating suspension device having the arm member including crisscrossed void portions, which are concealed from both the bulging faces, and which are visible from non-bulging faces of the arm member.

Also, Enomoto fails to disclose limitations of amended claim 5 for the reasons provided in relation to claim 1, and because the void portions formed in Enomoto's arm member are not arranged parallel to each other and also parallel to the another pair of the opposing faces of the rectangular shape. Rather, as discussed above, the void portion formed in Enomoto's arm member are arranged in a crisscross manner.

Applicant also respectfully submits that the claimed invention as recited in each of amended claims 1 and 5 is patentably distinct over the references of record, considered either singly or in combination. Further, applicant respectfully suggests that in the corresponding applications a claim similar to the amended claim 1 has been granted in the European Patent Office and the Japan Patent Office.

For all of the foregoing reasons, applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1 and 5 under 35 USC §102(b).

Other Matters

New claim 23, which depends from claim 1, is believed to patentably distinct over the references of record for the reasons provided in relation to claim 1, and for additional limitations thereof.

New claim 24 is believed to patentably distinct over the references of record for patentably distinct merits thereof, which are not disclosed in the references of record, considered either singly or in combination. Also, applicant respectfully suggests that a claim similar to the new claim 24 presented herein has been granted in the European Patent Office and the Japan Patent Office.

Conclusion

Based on all of the foregoing, applicant respectfully submits that all of the objections and rejections set forth in the Office Action are overcome, and that as presently amended, all of the claims are believed to be allowable over all of the references of record, whether considered singly or in combination.

Accordingly, applicant requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of record, and allowance of the claims. The application is now believed to be in condition for allowance, and a notice to this effect is earnestly solicited.

If the Examiner is not fully convinced of the allowability all of the claims now in the application, applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner telephonically contact applicant's undersigned representative to expeditiously resolve prosecution of the application.

Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,




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